(The following comments were submitted by Stanislaw S. Damas)

STATEMENT OF POSITION ON AMENDMENT 2

While Amendment 2 masqueraded as being designed to preclude special rights for gays, it has been widely understood to be a referendum on the question whether gays may be denied the same treatment accorded other people. In part, the increased occurrence of hate crimes directed at gays supports this reading. It is also plain that the great number of business and civic leaders around the country who have expressed disappointment, disagreement, or outrage at the passage of Amendment 2 have read it as taking a position permissive of discrimination against gays.

As an organized and lawful society, we cannot sit idly by and tolerate this. Human oppression frequently begins with seemingly benign steps describing certain substrata of society as different. Being born German and naturalized as a United States citizen, I am painfully aware that the world has high expectations of citizens. We are expected to stand up against the wrongful actions of the few within society that oppress. The world rightly criticized the citizens of Nazi Germany for not taking a forceful stand in opposition to Germany's inhumane, illegal, and immoral treatment of Jews and other minority groups during the time leading up to and during World War II. We have been taught that, as citizens, we are responsible for and morally required to take positions against government mistreatment of any subgroups within our people. As lawyers we are especially charged with an understanding of the ramifications of these changes.

From an economic perspective, it can be seen as important for the financial health of Colorado to make a strong statement in opposition to Amendment 2 to speedily lead to the reversal of Amendment 2. This could result in the reinstatement of Colorado among the ranks of the United States that are willing to uphold the rights of all people.

Third, and finally, it must be recognized that homosexual or lesbian conduct is primarily subject to condemnation from a religious perspective. On this basis, Amendment 2 enters the realm of imposing a religious standard on the State of Colorado violative of the separation of church and state.

For all of the foregoing reasons I think it is incumbent upon the Labor Law Section of the Colorado Bar to take the strongest possible position with regard to Amendment 2. Accordingly, every effort should be made to move the Colorado Bar convention from Colorado Springs, which is the point of origin of Amendment 2 and the source of a votes in its favor. If the convention is not moved, I would recommend that the committee boycott the convention and not participate. If that is not to be, then I propose that no program be put on by the Labor Law Committee except for a public protest at Colorado Springs' City Hall in lieu of a meeting. Anything less betrays our duty as citizens and as lawyers.

Colorado Bar Association considering Move of 1993 Convention from Broadmoor -- Let your voice be heard !!! write NOW !!!